

# TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURE

## Good Laundry Day

Monday, 22 October, 2007

The sky is red and quiet

I wake up to its blood darkness  
believing the day has been slept away

From my bedroom window screen  
in my Oceanside flat  
up on the Sepulveda hill  
it is curious ash that drizzles to the ground  
choking the land like two-faced snow

The smell of burning homes  
cleansing away the over-brush  
has drifted this far

Thankful for the warmth  
I grab a V8 from the kitchen  
stumbling into the living room

Cecilia is purring on the dark gray IKEA Karlstad sofa  
as I click over to the KFMB news  
talking at the misfortune of neighbourhoods not far from me

Shuffling to my veranda  
I snap pictures of the sun  
a silver-shadowy mass in the apocalyptic sky  
and video-record the stillness

Hustling back to my computer den  
moments of history from my Sony Cybershot  
are emailed to inquisitive friends from foreign lands  
telling them how close I am to danger  
how choking the air is around me

Dean Gui. 'Good Laundry Day'.  
*Transnational Literature* Vol. 4 no. 1, November 2011.  
<http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/transnational/home.html>

Then from my second story window  
realizing it is only noon  
I notice a woman treading tepidly across the glitter  
a week's worth of her family's clothes  
shoved carelessly into a hamper

and I wonder if today is a good  
laundry day

*Dean Gui*